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CITY OF BOSTON.



PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

CITY COUNCIL

On the Occasion of the Decease of

CHARLES WELLS,

FOURTH MAYOR OF BOSTON.

1866.

CHARLES WELLS.

CHARLES WELLS, the fourth Mayor of Boston, was born in Boston, Dec. 30, 1786.

He commenced his career in life as a mason, and became successful as a master builder. When the Municipal Government was first inaugurated in 1822, he represented ward one as a member of the Common Council, and in the years 1829 and 1830 he served as a member of the Board of Aldermen. His experience in municipal matters, and his good judgment in their administration, made him a prominent candidate for Mayor of the City, and he was chosen to that important office, and served in that capacity in 1832 and 1833.

During his administration many public improvements were made in our principal streets. Broad Street was extended to Sea Street, Commercial Street was extended to Hanover Street, and Tremont Street was widened and opened to Roxbury.

The administration of Mr. Wells was characterized by great energy in the extensive and systematic preparations made to resist the contemplated advent of the cholera, which, in 1832, was prevalent in Canada and the British Provinces. The Quarantine establishment, then at Rainsford Island, was greatly enlarged, and was completely organized, and all vessels arriving at this port from infected districts, were obliged to remain at Quarantine several days for thorough inspection and purification. The measures adopted for the protection of the inhabitants of the city at that time, though harsh and rigid as they would appear at this date, were successful in preserving the city from the epidemic.

After the retirement of Mr. Wells from public life, he became President of the Massachusetts Mutual Fire Insurance Company, whose affairs he managed with great prudence and sagacity until his decease, which occurred at his residence in this city on Sunday, June 3, 1866.

CITY OF BOSTON.

*At a meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the City of Boston,
held on the fifth day of June, 1866,—*

The Mayor communicated to the Board the following message :

To the Honorable the City Council :

GENTLEMEN :—I deem it my official duty to call to your notice the death of the Hon. Charles Wells, a venerable and estimable fellow citizen, who, during the early period in the history of the City Government, devoted himself efficiently to its service. Although it is upwards of thirty years since he retired from the office of Chief Magistrate, and withdrew from all official concerns of a public nature, yet he was ever interested in all matters which had for their object the welfare of his native city. Acting at different times in the several capacities of Councilman, Alderman, and Mayor, he was distinguished in his public life for prudence and good judgment in the management of civic affairs, while the virtues which adorned his private life rendered him universally respected by all classes of our people. Possessing a clear mind and great probity and strength of character, he was a wise councillor and judicious friend. His only ambition was to discharge faithfully the trusts committed to his hands. As he passed through life without reproach, so now, having finished his course, and being gathered to his Fathers, he leaves to his survivors an honored name and record.

The memory and example of such a citizen should be cherished by those to whom are intrusted the administration of

our municipal affairs; and in order in some degree to ensure such a result, I have embraced this occasion to communicate thus formally the fact of his decease.

F. W. LINCOLN, JR., *Mayor*.

Read: and thereupon Alderman Slack submitted to the Board the following resolves:—

RESOLVED, — That the City Council of Boston has heard of the decease of EX-Mayor Charles Wells with profound sorrow.

RESOLVED, — That in the decease of this eminent citizen, Boston has lost one who in his prime was a faithful officer, a judicious counsellor, of private virtue and public integrity—one who, whether in official or private station, illustrated most worthily the merits of an upright and public-spirited citizen.

RESOLVED, — That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by His Honor the Mayor to the family of the deceased.

Passed unanimously: sent down for concurrence.

G. W. MESSINGER, *Chairman*.

In Common Council, June 7, 1866.

Concurred unanimously.

HENRY D. HYDE, *Pres. pro tem*.

Approved, June 8th, 1866.

F. W. LINCOLN, JR., *Mayor*.

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